

The Vision Preservation Act builds on the quality programs currently in operation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Eye Institute within the National Institutes of Health. These agencies lead the way in health care research and the prevention of disease, and the enactment of this legislation will ensure that appropriate federal resources and research are dedicated toward stemming the vision diseases that afflict too many Americans.

I encourage my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation in recognition of Healthy Vision Month and ask for their continued support of the Congressional Vision Caucus's efforts to help improve the vision of our constituents throughout this nation.

THE GREAT APE CONSERVATION
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, with my colleague from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, I am introducing the Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2005. In the 5 years since its enactment, the Act has helped protect threatened primates, including chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, orangutans, and gibbons. This reauthorization is needed to continue progress in this important field.

The funds provided by the Great Ape Conservation Act have gone to such diverse projects as: protecting chimpanzee habitat from logging operations; establishing anti-poaching enforcement units; starting conservation education programs; coordinating gibbon population surveys and threat assessments; and implementing ape health monitoring programs.

And every federal dollar spent under the Great Ape Conservation Act has been matched many times over by local and international funds. The \$2,940,000 Congress appropriated between FY 2001 and FY 2003 was leveraged by \$4,275,032 in non-Federal matching funds or in-kind contributions.

To take just one example, in 2003 the Fish and Wildlife Service invested \$45,000 in the Mengamé Reserve for Chimpanzees and Gorillas; this investment leveraged more than \$100,000 from other sources, funding which has helped the Jane Goodall Institute study a promising area for great ape conservation on the border of Cameroon and Gabon.

But despite the ongoing successes of the Act, the threats to these noble primates continue.

Press accounts and reports from the field indicate that these species continue to be placed in jeopardy by habitat loss, poaching, logging, and the bush meat trade. The Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2005 specifically authorizes funding to address these root causes of threats to great apes.

In addition, natural disasters and their aftermath can have a devastating impact on wildlife. Efforts to rebuild after the 2004 tsunami have led to increased logging, putting further pressure on already-threatened orangutans and other forest species. That is why the legislation we are introducing today authorizes

funding to address critical great ape conservation needs in Aceh Province, Indonesia.

The Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act extends the program's authorization through the year 2010. The contributions of the Great Ape Conservation Act have been very important, but there is much work yet to be done.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST
CENTENNIAL MONTH

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition for the 100th anniversary of the creation of the San Juan National Forest in my Congressional District in Colorado.

On June 3, 1905 the San Juan National Forest was created through presidential proclamation by Theodore Roosevelt. This year also marks the centennial of the creation of the U.S. Forest Service, the Federal agency which manages the San Juan National Forest and 155 other National Forests across the country.

The San Juan National Forest encompasses over 1.8 million acres of southwestern Colorado, an area more than 120 miles wide and 60 miles long. This great forest has historically contributed to the communities of southwestern Colorado through the supply of timber, minerals, oil and gas, livestock grazing, recreation, clean water and air, and other resources. The above amenities are important to the quality of life and economic well being for southwestern Colorado.

I ask all citizens to join in the Centennial Celebration of the San Juan National Forest through the many activities scheduled for June 1-4, 2005 and ask my colleagues to join me in proclaiming June, 2005 as San Juan National Forest Centennial Month.

KEEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS
IN HUD HOUSING SAFE
FROM THEIR ABUSERS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe Housing Identification Exemption for the Lives of Domestic Violence Victims (SHIELD) Act.

Mr. Speaker, I know of the victims that have finally built up the courage to leave their abusive relationships and have nowhere to go but a homeless shelter. I know of the women who everyday are scared for their lives because their abusers are trying to track them down.

Mr. Speaker, I know of the victims who want to feel safe, who want to believe that these federal agencies and services are there to protect them. And, ultimately all of our federal services are intended to effectively serve and protect our citizens.

But, I also know of the victims who are scared that they can be tracked down by their

predators and probably would not seek housing assistance if they knew about the HUD requirement to disclose their personal information and location. All HUD homeless shelters and food banks, domestic violence centers and transitional housing receiving McKinney-Vento Funds are required to input personal identifying data into the Homeless Management Information System Database. This tracking database requires personal identifying information including names, Social Security numbers, date of birth, race and ethnicity. This personal information database can be easily accessed by personnel working in state, local and federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I am thinking of the victims whose abusers readily have access to this personal information. These abusers may work in one of these agencies or have the ability to access this database. All they would have to do is type in the victim's name or other identifying pieces of information and they would immediately know where the victim is staying or the domestic violence shelter they visited. A loophole like this is far too detrimental to their safety and could put many victims of domestic violence in further danger.

In order to address this problem, I have introduced the SHIELD Act along with my colleague from Florida, KATHERINE HARRIS. This bill would require any agency participating in the Homeless Management Information System to exclude personal identifying information of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Instead the legislation recommends the use of nonpersonal identifying information for data collection and statistical purposes.

Reaching out for assistance is already a big step for many victims of domestic violence. We should not put them in greater danger or deter them from seeking these valuable services because of an agency loophole. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the SHIELD Act.

RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF
THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 149, a bill recognizing the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel. Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, marks a day when Theodor Herzl's prophetic words became reality: "if you will it, it is no dream."

The State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation 57 years ago, and it continues to be a strong friend of the United States and a beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

On May 14, 1948, Israel was officially established, and the United States was one of the first countries to recognize Israel, doing so within 11 minutes of its creation. Israel has come a long way since those initial minutes. The Israeli people have contributed greatly as scholars, innovators, educators, and more, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize their accomplishments.